Role of communities in conservations of biodiversity

518. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the role of the communities in the management and conservation of biodiversity under the Biodiversity Act;

(b) what protection Government are providing on the rights of the community representatives;

(c) whether any additional rules have been formulated for the Biodiversity Management Committees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As per Para 1 of Section 41 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, every local body shall constitute a Biodiversity Management Committee within its area for the purpose of promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity including preservation of habitats, conservation of land races, folk varieties and cultivation, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals and micro organism and chronicling knowledge relating to biological diversity.

(b) As per Section 14 of the Biological Diversity Rules, 2004, the National Biodiversity Authority shall consult local bodies before granting any permission for access to biological resources and associated knowledge to any user agency. The community representatives can exercise their wisdom and rights while consenting or disagreeing to any such request.

(c) and (d) Rules under the Act have also been framed and duly notified. The same were placed on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on 23rd July, 2004 and on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 19th July, 2004. These rules also contained provisions relating to the Biodiversity Management Committee.

Pending proposal under Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana

†519. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the details of the proposals pending for approval of his Ministry under 'Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana', State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of proposals from the State of Uttaranchal for construction of roads under the said scheme are pending with Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the norms for approval of proposals under the said scheme are proposed to be relaxed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) As per available information, proposal to construct Shivpuri-Timli Marg over 16.055 hectare of forest land under Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana, in District Tehri, Uttaranchal, has already been processed by the Regional Office, Lucknow and it is required to be placed before State Advisory Group constituted at the level of Regional Office for recommendation. Further, five proposals in respect of Himachal Pradesh namely, Khora-Age to Bhallan-II road, Link road to village Bargal, Brow to Poshna road, Bhanuin Beothi-Koni Ki Behi road, and Sainj-Bara Bata Seri road, are being processed at Regional Office, Chandigarh. There are no proposals from any other State/UT.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Tiger population in Ranthambhore

520. DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a report recently that the tiger population in Ranthambhore has suddenly dropped; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to investigate the causes and take remedial action?